



## The Phoenix Family Readiness Group Newsletter

### 1<sup>st</sup> Special Troops Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (M)

1st Edition, Issue 4 ~ 1 September – 21 September 2005



Families, friends and fellow soldiers of the Phoenix Battalion:

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. In this issue, we will meet the PA and the Chaplain, take a look at what the battalion has been doing for the last couple weeks and go over some notes from the FRG's.

#### **BN Summary**

Hello from the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, CA! We are pleased to report that all of our soldiers deployed safely to the "Dust Bowl" and are currently preparing to receive some of the best training in the world. In addition to our battalion as you know it, we've gained a few additional units such as an Explosive Ordnance Detonation unit, Psychological



Above: The Tactical Operations Center in the "Dust Bowl" Operations unit, Civil Affairs team, and two units of engineers (C/5<sup>th</sup> and B/62<sup>nd</sup>). In addition to this, we've also gained our Physician's Assistant who will be with us throughout the rotation and will rejoin us in November to deploy to Iraq. Overall, the leadership and the soldiers are motivated to continue through the rotation to learn and prepare for the future deployment to Iraq.

Training is great, but everyone will be excited to get back to our families and the comforts of home in a few weeks!

#### **Alpha**

The Nighthawks are busy at work with unloading equipment from the train, doing Night Vision Goggle training and preparing to receive intelligence reports for the brigade. Overall, the Nighthawks have high spirits as they are still eating and sleeping plenty. Recently CPT Bell had to return to the rear to nurse his father back to good health and await the arrival of a new baby. Our prayers are with you and we look forward to meeting your new addition!

#### **Bravo**

The Eagles are working hard too. We've done a lot of work setting up and maintaining the Brigade's communications network this first week. In addition, 13 soldiers received training on an Improvised Explosive Device lane and an FM Communications class. We've completed inventories of our Combat Lifesaver Equipment bags and downloaded our vehicles and equipment from the railhead. The XO and 1SG are leading the way with good attitudes and we're all looking forward to a safe return home!

#### **HHD**

The Renegades are on the ground in force at NTC. We haven't been here in several years, so we're working hard to knock the cobwebs off. The food is better



than expected; but that's not to say the hard-working Renegades wouldn't like to receive some care packages in the mail. We'll be heading into the "Box" on Saturday, so your Soldier won't have email or phone until we come back out on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The company's morale is good and we're looking forward to seeing all of you in October after some great Army training.

## HHC

The Houndogs are definitely well employed on this NTC rotation. While



motivated and eager to learn more combat skills, HHC has provided top of the line support to the battalion and brigade with MP security, meal preparation and maintenance. I'm happy to announce that the MRE's they give us are at an all time high quality with selections including chicken fajitas and pot roast. On a more serious note, we're all doing well and happy to be a part of the



greatest training environment possible. While this time at the RUBA has been busy and tiring, we're anxious to move onto the exciting training ahead.

During the month of September we've gained two very valuable members of the Phoenix team, the Battalion PA and Chaplain.

## PA

Our Physician's Assistant (PA) is finally on board. CPT Keith Powell joined



us on the ground at NTC from Reynolds Army Community Hospital in Ft. Sill, OK. CPT Powell enlisted in 1987 as an 11B Infantryman, worked as a 29J Computer Repairman and finally decided to be a PA in 1995. CPT Powell graduated from The University of Texas with a Physician's Assistant degree, got his Masters from Nebraska University, and earned a second

masters from U.S. Army-Baylor in Healthcare Administration. He's been on numerous deployments including Bosnia, Macedonia and the Philippines. He and his wife Holly have six children – 3 boys, and 3 girls.

## CHAPLAIN

Chaplain (1LT) David Fell is a native of Cleveland, OH. He has lived in Texas for the past 16 years. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Texas



A&M – Commerce in 1995. In August of 2004, he received his Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, TX.

Chaplain Fell has served in various ministry roles since 1988, including service in Nondenominational and Liturgical congregations. Chaplain Fell is ordained by the Charismatic Episcopal Church.

He and his wife, Renata, have been married for 12 years. They have one son, Benjamin, who will be six years old in October.

## FRG

First of all, we'd like to invite everyone out to the Battalion FRG meeting this weekend. We will meet at the Ironhorse Readiness Center from 2 to 4 P.M. on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> of September to socialize,

make welcome home signs and meet new friends.

During the meeting we will also be taking Hurricane relief donations, we ask that you please bring school supplies, but anything you can spare is welcome.

These Newsletters are accessible via the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division website. To access the Battalion webpage with links to Battalion history, the FRG page and information about the Battalion's Crest /Insignia, Mission and contact information. Go to [www.hood.army.mil](http://www.hood.army.mil), on the right under Major Unit's click on 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, once you are at the Division webpage, click on Units, then 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade and 1<sup>st</sup> STB at the bottom. This will allow you access to all of the Battalion's links.

Finally, there have been some changes in the FRG leadership in the battalion. Jessica Rollins is stepping down as the HHD FRG leader because her husband is being transferred to 7-10 CAV. We'd like to welcome Jean Dargle to the FRG leadership team. Already a member of HHD's team, she was quick to fill the leadership void. Thanks Jean! We are also sad to see Deanne Simpson step down as the B Co FRG leader for personal reasons. We are looking for eager volunteers. If you would be willing to fill the FRG leader role in B Co, please contact the BN FRG leader, Beth Cross or the Rear Detachment Commander, CPT Miller.

## To Dare Is To Do

Larry A. Seaman  
Command Sergeant Major  
U.S. Army

John W. Cross  
LTC, EN  
Commanding

*Next Issue: We will take a look at the training the battalion endured while "in the box" at NTC and look at some events in the months to come.*